

The CONFERENCE BULLETIN

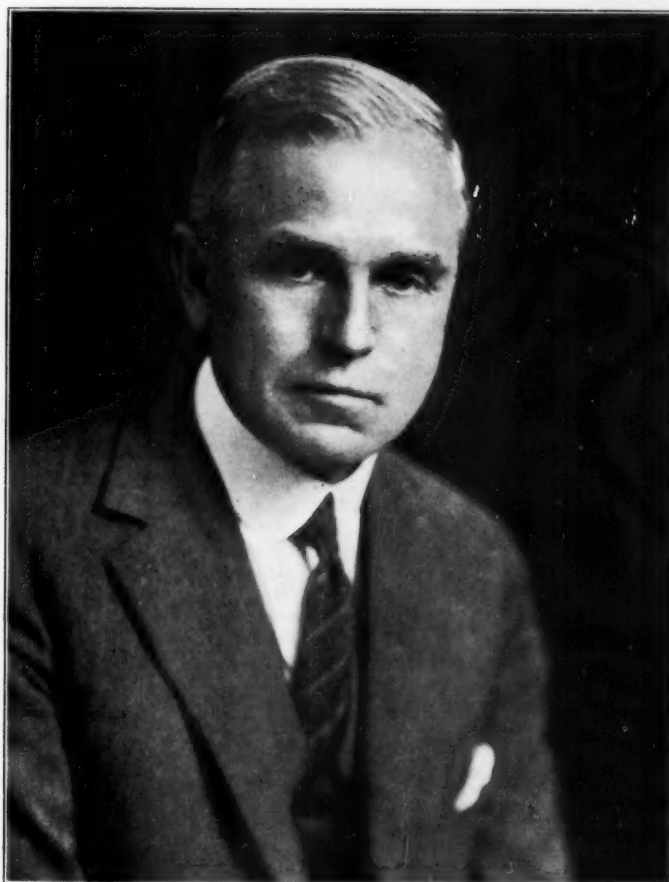
PUBLISHED BY THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK

Vol. 30

AUGUST, 1927

No. 4

OUR NEW PRESIDENT



SHERMAN C. KINGSLEY

To the Members of the Conference

The 1928 Conference meets in Memphis. It has been several years since the Annual Meeting was held in the South, and the 1928 gathering will be of unusual interest to all who attend.

In no section of the country is greater progress being made, and probably no one fully appreciates the significance of the trend of industry in that direction and all that is implied in the educational and social development that will accompany this new acceptance of opportunities and possibilities. Not Memphis only but the whole South will be at home to the Conference. We all know what this means.

The Conference itself now past fifty is an interesting topic for study. It had its humble and cautious early years and reflected in its progress the current thought and practice of social service work. As one looks back over

the progress, it is revealing to note how diminutive a problem could constitute a major revolution.

However, if the influence of the Conference could be charted, impressive advances would be noted in the solid progress from palliative measures to preventive and constructive programs. It has been the social service workers shrine. It has been a place for an annual recharting of courses and of correcting the social service compass.

Its achievements must necessarily be measured by the influence it has exerted upon its members and on the thought and practice in welfare service in the Country. These perhaps are best understood by taking soundings in different fields.

When the Conference had its beginning, the baby death rate in the United States was probably between 140 and 175 to the thousand in the first year. Vital statistics in

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**THE CONFERENCE BULLETIN
OF THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF SOCIAL WORK**

277 East Long Street, Columbus, Ohio
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Treasurer, C. M. Bookman, Cincinnati
General Secretary and Editor of the Bulletin
Howard R. Knight, Columbus, Ohio

AUGUST, 1927

Published four times a year by the National Conference of Social Work, in May, August, November and February.

Price fifty cents a year, fifteen cents a copy. (Membership Directory, 25 cents)

Sent all members in consideration of payment of fifty cents as part of membership fee.

Entered as second-class matter at Columbus, Ohio, March 21, 1921, under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized March 21, 1921.

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The Fifty-fourth Annual Meeting

The Fifty-fourth annual meeting of the National Conference of Social Work is now a matter of history. The Proceedings will soon take a place beside the other fifty-three volumes in the public libraries and I trust on the shelves of much used books of its members. Two weeks have gone by and that much time perspective is allowed to sum up what seem to be the significant features of the Conference.

In the first place, it was a well attended conference demonstrating that even beyond the immediate centers of extensive social work activity, the National Conference will draw its members. Nearly two thousand three hundred persons from outside the state of Iowa registered. This is near to the record number of long distance travelers to the Conference. How many others came who did not register no one knows, but there seem to be indications at all Conferences that there are hundreds of such. The arrangements for the Conference left nothing to be desired. The physical layout for offices, exhibit space and meeting rooms was quite ideal. It was hardly necessary to walk more than two blocks to get from any one meeting to another. The exhibit this year outdid anything in the past and the large rooms in which it was held afforded opportunity for the meeting of delegates, the exchange of information, and the generation of good fellowship. Undoubtedly we are destined to see an increasing value put upon the annual exhibit of agencies, institutions, and organizations.

The program of the Conference speaks for itself. There were many comparatively new topics given prominent places. The attempt was made at the general sessions to take up embattled causes needing clarification and support. Justice in the social order, the challenge to democracy's right to control evils, the school and its relation to social welfare, rural social problems, the Church and social justice, modern criminal law tendencies, the rehabilitation of cripples, international social work problems and the social consequences of the present immigration law were

given prominent places. I think the judgment of those who will read the papers on these subjects as well as of those who heard them, will be that a distinct contribution was made to straight thinking in each case.

The Division Programs will be reported by the respective Chairmen, but there are some features, general in scope, to which I wish to refer. First, there was the rural program running through all of the Divisions. The Program Committee asked the Chairmen of Divisions if possible to create one or more programs dealing with the social problems of the country within the field of their activities. Every Division responded and all re-

ports from these sessions indicate that a real contribution was made to the neglected field of rural social welfare. Coming at the problem from so many angles there could not fail to be a fairly well rounded presentation. It is to be hoped that some of these papers may be collected by some enterprising publisher in a special volume.

A second feature of the Division programs was the beginning of sessions on special problems of research. Several of the sections set aside one session denoted as "technical," in which it was planned to have an outstanding piece of research work reported. An opportunity was thus afforded to those who wished to delve more deeply into scientific matters. At the same time many of the Divisions creat-

ed a program non-technical in character for the special benefit of those who wished to hear the simpler elementary facts and problems of social work presented. Reports from these sessions were that the idea was a successful one.

The discussions at the Conference indicated a greater readiness than for some time past to consider the larger questions of social reform. A genuine response of approval came for those papers and discussions which attacked fearlessly existing evils of the social order. The search for causes of human disaster was more intense and social legislation and reforms to check the causes were more readily approved than at any time

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JOHN A. LAPP

AS SEEN BY THE DIVISION CHAIRMAN

DIVISION I—CHILDREN

The interests of the Division on Children, perhaps more than those of any other group of the National Conference, reach out into the programs considered by every other Division and almost every Kindred Group. And, within the Children's Division itself, there is, (at least to the program maker) a staggering diversity in the special fields of work represented. For these reasons, the Committee of Division I, had four aims in its program building:

1. To avoid as far as possible, overlapping or repetition of discussion planned by other groups.

2. To unite with other groups in joint sessions to consider problems of inclusive interest.

3. To provide opportunities for small special groups eager to have long and detailed discussion of questions at issue within their limited fields.

4. And only lastly, though this would seem to be primary, to arrange for general meetings which would mean most to our own large membership.

I. To avoid duplication, the Committee kept in touch with the Chairmen of the other program committees, and found that many discussions asked for by our membership were to be taken care of by other groups. Motion pictures, for example, were discussed by Division VI. The preschool child, by Division VII. Children's compensation for industrial injuries, by Division V. Education for child welfare work, by Division XI. The School and Social Work, at a General Session. And meetings of great interest to our membership were held in the afternoons throughout the week, by the National Probation Association, The National Association of Visiting Teachers, The Big Brother and Big Sister Federation, The Girls' Protective Council, and the Child Welfare League of America. So our first program problem was one of elimination, to avoid repetition and thus make it possible for our own membership, undivided, to attend these other sessions. Of course, some conflicts were unavoidable, our greatest program disappointment being the conflict with Division VII on Mental Hygiene. But these can surely be avoided another year.

II. Our second effort was to arrange for joint consideration with other groups, of problems and interests held in common.

The first joint meetings planned were those with Division IV, The Family, for the consideration of rural problems. "Undifferentiated Case Work: Its Challenge and Its Opportunity", was vividly presented by four different speakers from as many backgrounds: Miss Penrose from the Church Mission of Help of Albany Diocese; Mrs. Baskett from the Schools of Boone County, Missouri; Miss Hastings from the Pennsylvania Children's Aid Society; Miss Eicher from the State Bureau of Child Wel-

fare of New Mexico. And their presentation was followed by a paper packed with suggestions, upon "Organization Needed for Undifferentiated Case Work," by Miss Cottrell of Iowa University. This meeting opened the Conference's discussion of rural problems,—a discussion which continued throughout the weeks, winding up, at least for the Children's group, at our second joint meeting with Divisions IV upon "The Use of Committees and Volunteers in Rural Social Work." These meetings both showed with vivid clarity how social workers in both the Children's and the Family field must work together in rural problems.

A second subject of large common interest was the interrelationship of the school and social work. "How Can the School Prevent Delinquency?" was the subject of a meeting participated in by the Divisions on Delinquency and Mental Hygiene, by the National Probation Association, The National Conference of Visiting Teachers, The Big Brother and Big Sister Federation, and the Girls' Protective Council. Dr. Jessie Taft, of Philadelphia, spoke first on "Understanding and Opportunity for the Problem Child", showing how the problem child is really every child, when our understanding is more than superficial. Miss Ueland then substituted for Superintendent Holmes, speaking upon, "The Work-Study-Play Schools and the Individual Child", and Miss Boardman discussed with satisfying understanding and humor the different approaches of "The Teacher and the Social Worker."

This first school meeting was followed by a second joint session also upon the interrelationship of school and social work, this time with Division VIII, upon "the Public School as a Social Service Instrument", where the functions of the public school in the fields of (a) health, (b) recreation, (c) case work with individual children, (d) special classes, and (e) probation, were discussed pro and con by Professor Perry of Oklahoma University, and Dr. Kennedy of Platoon Schools in Pittsburgh.

A third large subject of common interest was that of children's health, and was considered by a joint meeting "on the time" of Division III, Health, under the general topic: "What Should Social Agencies Do for the Health of Children under their Supervision in Institutions and in Their Own Homes", a meeting of fundamental value to all children's workers, though reported more fully in this bulletin by Division III.

Then the working together of public and private agencies was a fourth topic of wide general interest and importance. This was discussed at a joint meeting with Division IX, Public Officials, also "on the time" of Division IX, under the heading: "Building the Foundation for the Prevention of Dependency"; and we were fortunately able to continue the discussion started here at nine A. M. at a joint round table immediately fol-

lowing, at eleven, under the topic: "How Can Our State Departments Accomplish Most For Dependent Children?" and to continue still further at an afternoon round table arranged by the Child Welfare League, upon "The Purpose and Meaning of Statistics".

III. These meetings held with the Division of Public Officials illustrate the effort of the Children's Committee to provide opportunities for detailed discussion of special problems, discussion long-continued enough to bring some real pooling of experience, some real clarity of group understanding. It was with this purpose that our Round Tables were planned in close cooperation with the Kindred Groups so that discussion of one topic could be carried over with real continuity from one session to another.

For example, the institution group made up Round Table I under the chairmanship of Mr. Franklin Thomas, discussing the general subject, "Better Service by Institutions", and this was continued in the afternoon at a similar Round Table planned by the Child Welfare League. Round Table II, with Miss Liggett in the chair, discussed "The Content of Case Work in Foster Home Care", and also carried the discussion further in the afternoon under the aegis of the League. Round Table III, under Mr. Hodson, was upon "Illegitimacy, Present Day Policies and Practices", and this discussion was continued at a luncheon arranged by the Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy. Round Table IV, with Dr. Potter in the chair, on "How Can Our State Departments Accomplish Most for Dependent Children?" followed the joint section meeting with the Public Officials, as reported above, and also continued further in the afternoon, under Miss Georgia Ralph, as a Round Table on "Statistics". And Round Table V, arranged by the International Society for Crippled Children, upon "New Standards in the Care of Crippled Children", continued at a rehabilitation workers' luncheon, where a program for both crippled children and disabled adults was considered.

It was this cooperation with Kindred Groups which made continuity and persistency of discussion really feasible.

IV. The last two section meetings of the Children's Division were arranged for our own group without special reference to the other Divisions or Kindred Groups.

There must be an opportunity in every National Conference to hear from our leaders. We must see what we can of our general direction; understand as we can, our own small part in the larger national program; and this means knowing something of what has gone before, and realizing the most important next steps which are before us. It is for this vision and understanding that we look to our national leaders. At our section meeting upon "The American

Child in 1927", presided over by Miss Grace Abbott, and discussed by Mr. Hodson, Mrs. Glenn and Mr. Lovejoy, two important papers were presented. Mr. Carstens spoke upon "Child Welfare Work Since the White House Conference", giving a paper which should be in the active library of every children's worker, showing as it does, the development during the recent past, and the next steps for the immediate future, to be taken by organized children's work. Then Miss Addams, in her usual far-seeing and simple way, spoke on "Youth and the New Social Order", reminding us of the old essentials in a social program which we must bear in mind for all children:—the possibilities in parental education; the need for a minimum protection of youth; and the importance of understanding youth's spirit of adventure, so that we may not rouse this aspect of human nature against society by stupid police methods.

There must also be an opportunity in every National Conference to learn of research, new work, new studies, in our special field. Our last section meeting was upon "Research in the Child Welfare Field". Probably the most important recent study made by an organization of its own work, was the "Study of Intake in West Chester County, New York", reported upon by Miss Madeline U. Moore. This was followed by Mr. Areson of the Child Welfare League of America, upon "The Survey in the Development of Local Child Welfare Programs", and closed by Miss Grace Abbott on, "Studies of Child Caring by the Federal Children's Bureau." This meeting gave us all a clearer understanding of how to use resources for study, appraisal, and planning ahead;—resources possibly within our own organization, or the resources of the Child Welfare League; or those of a Government Children's Bureau.

The research meeting, one of the strongest, liveliest, and best attended of all, closed the program of the Children's Division of the Fifty-fourth National Conference

ELSA UELAND,
Chairman, 1927.

DIVISION II—DELINQUENTS AND CORRECTION

Dr. George W. Kirchwey, Chairman of the Division, being unable to attend the Conference because of illness, and the Vice-Chairman being absent, Dr. Hastings H. Hart, Secretary of the Division, was appointed to act as Chairman.

The Division held one general session in the Shrine Temple and five section meetings of two hours each. The first section meeting held on May 12th, was divided into five Round Tables, meeting at the same time, in order to give opportunity for detailed discussion of technical subjects.

At the General Session, held on May 16th, two important papers were presented: one on "What the Criminal Justice Surveys Show," by Mr. Alfred Bettman, Attorney-at-Law, Cincinnati, Ohio; the other on "Probation: Its Status and Prospects," by Mr. Edwin J. Cooley, chief probation officer of

the New York City Court of General Sessions. Mr. Cooley is author of a recent book, "Probation and Delinquency".

The five Round Table meetings, held at the same time, were unexpectedly successful. In nearly every one of them there was an animated, vigorous and practical discussion. The subjects discussed were: "Judicial Discretion and Parole"; "Adult Probation—Present Status and Prospects"; "Self-Government in Prisons Today"; and "Prison Labor in the United States and Women Police". The discussion on Prison Labor was especially vigorous and enlightening—particularly the part taken by Warden Oscar E. Lee, of the Wisconsin State Prison, presenting the point of view of the prison administration and Mr. John J. Sonstebj, representing the viewpoint of organized labor.

At the second Section Meeting on May 13th, Miss Gladys Mendum, of the New York State Charities Aid Association, read a paper on "Delinquency-Breeding Conditions in Rural Life". Miss Mendum brought out the fact that social difficulties of rural communities are quite as acute and important as those in urban life and call for the intelligent and constructive work of trained social agents; all the more because of the lack of hospitals, clinics, scout organizations and clubs for boys and girls. She indicated also the need of help from central social organizations in the effort to devise and put into effect social agencies adapted to the needs of rural communities.

Dr. Hastings H. Hart, Consultant in Delinquency and Penology of the Russell Sage Foundation, discussed "The Rural Jail". He maintained that the ordinary county jail is a direct contributory cause to crime because hundreds of thousands of young men and women and even boys and girls are there forced into intimate association with the worst people to be found in the community. They are kept in idleness and in many jails under unsanitary conditions. They go out with a deep sense of degradation and many criminal careers date from this destructive experience. He showed that these conditions are aggravated by the fact that most of the jails are a part of the political spoil system and the appointment of jailers and turnkeys is a matter of patronage to be used for the political advantage of the sheriff. Dr. Hart cited the reformation of the jail systems of Great Britain and France which were formerly abominable, but have been radically changed by bringing the entire jail system under the control of the national governments. He urged that the county jail system should be abolished and that the jails should be controlled in every State by a central commission while the jail officers should be selected strictly on merit and should receive special training in schools for prison officers.

There was an animated extemporaneous discussion of these two papers in which more than twenty delegates participated.

At the third Section Meeting on May 16th, Mr. Alfred Bettman, of

Cincinnati, discussed "The Present Trend of Criminal Legislation," and Dr. Hastings H. Hart made an address on "Law Enforcement by Self Restraint". Mr. Bettman's address indicated the tendency to hasty and ill-considered legislation based upon hysterical excitement over what are supposed to be new and unprecedented crime conditions, and stressed the importance of intelligent and patient study and the accumulation of reliable facts and statistics bearing upon the causes of crime; its actual amount in different communities and those forms of legislation which are best calculated to repress it. Dr. Hart urged the systematic cultivation of respect for law and the power of public sentiment and family training to cultivate the habit of self-restraint and abstinence from violation of law as a means of doing away with crime.

The fourth Section Meeting was a joint session with the Division of Mental Hygiene, at which two papers were read which struck the high note of the Division's program.

Dr. Joseph Jastrow of the University of Wisconsin, read a paper on "Psychology and Crime". He said, "The question is: what aids or hindrances original nature offers to the indispensable shaping of behavior in adjustment to our social and cultural needs." He took issue with Dr. Watson's view that 'condition' determines behavior, and was inclined to emphasize the influence of heredity and to "associate with the principles of environment and heredity the problem of human differences," and added: "The two must be considered in the same survey; the different aids and hindrances which one or another type of endowment offers to the educative process".

Dr. Jastrow emphasized in the second place what he calls "The genetic approach", i. e., progress "by going through stages determined by nature". He said: "No one is born criminal, because he is born in the condition of helpless infancy." However, he held that certain tendencies which may so develop as to control behavior in later life date back even to infancy.

It is impossible to convey any fair impression of Dr. Jastrow's illuminating paper in a brief review; it is to be hoped that it can be printed in full in the Proceedings of the Conference.

Professor E. H. Sutherland, of the University of Minnesota, read a paper of almost equal interest on "Criminology and the Law".

The fifth and final Section Meeting was held on May 18th with Dr. Edith Abbott of the University of Chicago presiding. Papers were read by Professor Arthur Evans Wood of the University of Michigan on "A Program of Criminological Research" and by Professor August F. Kuhlman, of the University of Missouri on "Evaluation of Recent Crime Surveys". Dr. Kuhlman's paper was a very important one in view of the multiplication of crime commissions throughout the country. He emphasized the importance of patient and protracted study of the crime problem and of the development of intelligent and reliable systems of crime statistics instead of the

guesswork and useless generalizations which are recklessly parading as facts.

HASTINGS H. HART,
Acting Chairman, 1927

DIVISION III—HEALTH

It was the endeavor of the Health Division this year to put on a program and discussion which would be of direct help to social and health workers, not only in their fields of work but in the management of their own individual health problems. For this reason our first session on Thursday, May 12th had as its general topic "What the Case Worker Should Know About Health". The first paper of this session summarized measures which the social worker might take to safeguard his health and that of his client; the second paper reviewed briefly the most recent results of research and study in the field of medical science. The speakers, Dr. James Wallace, Deputy Commissioner, Iowa State Department of Health, Des Moines, Iowa, and Dr. Walter L. Biering, Des Moines, Iowa, were well qualified to deal with their subjects, and a great deal of practical information was given.

The Division's second program was devoted to a symposium on "Some Outstanding Activities of Health Associations During the Past Year". Eleven five-minute papers were given places on this program and a time limit was quite strictly adhered to. This strict limitation seemed to promote careful thought and brevity with the subject matter presented. It was the consensus of opinion both on the part of the officers and members of Division III that this program of summaries was most successful from the standpoints of creating and holding the interest of the audience.

The third meeting was a joint session with Division I, the general topic being "What Should Social Agencies do for the Health of Children under Their Supervisions in Institutions and in Their Own Homes". The three speakers of this program were faced with broad subjects and handled them remarkably well considering time limitations. Dr. H. E. Kleinschmidt's paper "Minimum Requirements for Dependent Children" outlined briefly the salient health points that should be considered by agencies dealing with children. Dr. Fred Moore who discussed the question "What is a Normal Child Physically?" enlivened his presentation by a demonstration, using the services of two children, a boy and a girl. Dr. Emerson A. North had as his subject "What is a Normal Child Mentally?" and his paper was an apt complement of the others in this session.

The fourth meeting was the Division's Rural Session, the speakers being Dr. John H. Peck and Mr. Courtenay Dinwiddie. The third speaker of this session was virtually the only one in the entire program of Division III who was unable to appear. The smallest attendance at any of the Division meetings was noted at this Rural Session. It is difficult to know whether this was due to the fact that most members of the Conference were from urban communities or because of

the exodus of Conference members over the week end. It seems probable, however, that the first reason is the real one inasmuch as there were three times as many persons in attendance at the Wednesday (May 18) meeting of this Division than attended the Rural Session.

The fifth and final session of the Division was devoted to social hygiene and three speakers presented various aspects of the work in this field. Mr. Elwood Street gave a convincing paper illustrating the way in which social hygiene problems confront all social workers regardless of their specific fields of work. Dr. B. Franklin Royer showed clearly "The Relationship of Venereal Disease to Vision Defects", and pointed out many facts which, though commonplace to the physician, may oftentimes be overlooked by the social worker. In closing the session Dr. Chloe Owings outlined briefly the social hygiene program advocated and selected in the United States. Her subject was "Prevention Versus Salvage" and she showed clearly the need for continued activity in all social hygiene measures—educational, medical, protective, legal, and informational.

The good attendance and keen interest at the meetings of Division III this year was most heartening to those who have attended the National Conference of Social Work for many years. The election of Mr. Bleecker Marquette as Chairman of the Division for the coming year, and of Dr. Roger Perkins, Vice-Chairman, and Miss Edith Foster, Secretary, as his associate officers, assures the Conference of continued careful and thoughtful guidance in this vital field of public betterment.

WILLIAM F. SNOW,
Chairman, 1927

DIVISION IV—THE FAMILY

The Family Division attempted this year to draw together the private and public fields of family social work and to this end at all of the sessions the speakers were drawn from the public agencies as well as from the private family agencies. Emphasis was placed upon the fundamental unity of all family social work both in underlying philosophy and in technique. The discussions took for granted not only that the public departments had come to stay, but that they were capable of doing a good type of social case work and this acknowledgement was made most emphatically by representatives of private agencies. This change of opinion from what it was a quarter of century ago is little short of startling when one reads the addresses on this subject in the National Conference at the "turn of the century".

The Keynote of the Division meetings was sounded at the first session which was a joint meeting with Division IX—Public Officials and Administration on the subject "Integration of Effort in Theory and Practice by Private and Public Agencies for the Common Good". The papers of Mr. Frank Bruno and Miss Ruth Taylor and the discussion were entirely free from any dogmatic assertions regarding either the relative scope of public and private agencies or their respec-

tive capacities. The acceptance of public administration of social case work permitted the discussion to cling closely to a realistic plane. In this freer atmosphere, some of the older landmarks were seen to have less value than it was supposed they possessed; the concept of the private agency as the pioneer and of the public agency as the conservator of gains did not seem quite so clear as instance after instance of pioneering in public fields was cited. The idea of the public as bound by statutory limitations, and, therefore, not free to do what the private agency might undertake similarly tended to disappear in the light of the discussion between statute and administrative ruling.

Nor was there much confidence expressed in any delimitation of the field between the two which is either logical or final. Confidence was placed on a division which is clear, mutually arrived at, and subject to continuous modifications in the light of new experience and changes in the respective resources of public and private agencies. All speakers stressed especially that the relationship should take on a form and content determined by circumstances of its development. The only statement at all approaching a formula was the belief that good relationships are to be gained only as both public and private agencies conceive their job in terms of community planning for family social work, and enter into intimate and continuous conferences on the development of their common field.

The Council of Social Agencies seemed to be the appropriate medium to bring about such conferences and to give sanction to their findings.

At the second meeting, Mr. Emil Frankel discussed his study of the adequacy of income including the desirable and undesirable sources of income from the point of view of mothers' paid work, the full time paid work of children under 16 years of age and charitable relief in 2,404 families receiving Mothers' Assistance in Pennsylvania. The conclusions point to such questions as the following:

In how far are budget deficits real deficits and what are the measurements that are applicable?

Should children who can profit by further education be encouraged to continue school to the age of 16?

What, if any, general principles can be laid down with regard to the paid work of mothers?

What have been the results of sustained social work over a period of years as demonstrated by the present status of the families which are no longer in receipt of Mother's Assistance?

Mr. Frankel concluded that the problems of dependent family life can be understood "when all agencies specializing in family care come together in a common effort of interpretation".

Miss Dorothy Stabler in her paper on "The Effect of Staff Turnover on Families Under Care, as Demonstrated in Changes of Plan and Treatment and General Tempo of Work" noted the contribution which can be made

by the district secretary or supervisor in guaranteeing consistency of treatment in spite of the turnover of visitors.

Miss Dorothy Kahn called attention to the fact that research in the family as well as in other fields of social work has been stimulated by the publicity which is a direct outgrowth of campaigns for raising funds. "Ante-dating this outer stimulus to analysis is the inner stimulus of the professional spirit". She noted that criticism may give rise to defense reactions, "such as insistence on the fluid and unanalyzable factors in social case work and fears of misinterpretation which while having a sound basis should not become obstacles to far flung experimentation". The extraordinary rise in relief giving pointed out by Dr. Hurlin has as yet never been completely explained and Miss Kahn concluded with a plea that we find out not only what is being accomplished but that we study "what we are capable of accomplishing granted our present knowledge and skill".

The meeting on rural social work was a joint session with the Children's Division. Miss Ruth Haefner urged the utilization in social work of already established institutions which should be enlisted in cooperating with a plan for community-wide health, educational and recreational movements.

Miss Ida Curry emphasized the need of training an intelligent and sympathetic volunteer group for rural social work, and pointed out the necessity for careful selection and grouping for service according to individual qualifications. She emphasized that only through the efforts of volunteers can rural social work, which depends upon public support, be developed and continued.

Miss Wilma Van Dusseldorp noted the special conditions which effect social work in the rural community and offered five suggestions as to how volunteers can serve best:

1. To interpret the community to the worker so that standards of case work can be adjusted to the understanding and characteristics of the people.
2. To interpret the worker to the community.
3. To interpret the family to the community.
4. To broaden the field of service by sharing the responsibility of the too large volume of work with others.
5. To develop a type of country-wide organization necessary for permanent stability and progress.

At the meeting on "Environmental Conflicts in the Family and Social Life of the Modern Child" Dr. Henry Schumacher brought out the fact that conflicts begin in infancy in the child's effort to control his environment. The conflicts which childhood and youth meet have a more devastating effect if the parental adjustments are bad. The best safeguards lie in parental education as well as in a better social environment.

Miss Margaret Watson pointed out that no child is subject to the same

mental environment even as his brothers and sisters because of qualitative differences in the environment itself and because the child's personality creates unique responsibilities in those about him.

Miss Lillian Cowan noted the bewilderment among the children of foreign born parents caused by the old and new world conflicts of ideals and showed how their sublimation may be effected through wise interpretation; she also illustrated how the stabilizing influence of a good home combined again with skillful interpretation by the social worker can overcome a bad "parental pattern".

Five round tables covered the following subjects:

1. Specialized Approaches to Family Case Work.
2. Analysis of Processes in Rural Family Work.
3. Measurements in Family Case Work.
4. Interpretation of Case Load and Relief Statistics Reported Monthly by a Group of Agencies.
5. Training for Community Leadership in Family Social Work in Cities of Seventy-Five Thousand or Less.

MARY F. BOGUE,
Chairman, 1927

DIVISION V—INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

No Report

DIVISION VI—NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY LIFE

The program of the Division on Neighborhood and Community Life was devoted in large part to a discussion of Rural Problems. Professor Morgan gave the opening address on "The Challenge" of the Rural Community—social and economic. He brought out the reliance of the nation on sound agricultural development saying that the country must never allow the independent farmer to tend toward peasantry; that every advantage of education must be brought to the countryside as well as the best of cultural talent. He emphasized the necessity of developing a new community unit—not always a town and its environs, not always the county, but such a unit as will bring about the cohesive action on the part of the country and towns folk.

At a later session, Professor Steiner emphasized the provincialism of the city point-of-view that thinks only of itself, maintaining that city service should extend out to rural needs. On the other hand, the county districts are apt to feel that the city social technique does not apply, whereas broken homes, neglected children, delinquency are not found only in the populous areas.

Mrs. Ellsworth Richardson of Given, Iowa, held her audience, absolutely, when she brought out the benefits that come to the agricultural family through the farm bureau. She made one extremely important point, namely

that the country can not stand as many specialized agencies as the city and urged that social effort be organized through those farm agencies that are indigenous to the rural sections of the country.

Mr. Israels, secretary of the American Country Life Association, showed how the Cooperatives are saving thousands of dollars by developing sound business methods and breaking down the extreme individualism of the farmer which has had a great deal to do with his difficulties in getting some of the monetary results that come through industrial team play.

Miss Anna Clarke of the Y. W. C. A. led a discussion in which the recreational and social needs of women and girls were brought out. The Y. W. C. A. is developing special programs to serve the wives and daughters of farmers in a large section of the west and middle west,—an effort which must meet with the approval of all who recognize how important it is to break through the factors of loneliness and isolation.

Those who listened to Reverend George P. O'Connor, director of the Catholic Charitable Bureau of Boston, were refreshed and strengthened by his strong plea for a program which shall swing families as families into our community interests and shall maintain those tried standards of family life which have been developed out of the heart of human experience. He was followed by Miss Vittum of the Northwestern University Settlement of Chicago who told of neighborhood houses where families as families participated,—family reunions, family picnics, activities planned by mothers and fathers and participated in by with their children.

Mr. A. Maurice Moss of the Urban League of Baltimore pointed out that sound family life could not develop under housing conditions that fall below a minimum of decency and then told of his success in doing away with the so-called "Lung Block" in Baltimore with the resultant improvement in the moral tone of the district to say nothing of the lessened tuberculosis count.

And—the Movie! So interesting and important was this session that it was suggested that a similar session be included in next year's meetings. The producing interests told of their efforts to show wholesome reels while Miss Stecker who is running a Neighborhood Motion Picture Theatre in Cincinnati, Ohio, brought out how hard it is to get pictures for young children and that much study was yet needed. She also said that public opinion must make greater and greater demands in the movie interests. In the discussion representatives from the city and country certainly gave testimony as to the social problem still not conquered and scarcely faced in many a community.

The round tables were a success. The discussions were pointed and spirited.

EVA W. WHITE,
Chairman, 1927

DIVISION VII—MENTAL HYGIENE

In accordance with the general plan formulated by the Executive Committee, the program of the Mental Hygiene Division embraced four main topics. The interrelation of all fields of social service was directly and indirectly emphasized in the content of the papers, in the prearranged joint division meetings, in the widely-representative personnel attending Division VII meetings, and in the trend of the informal discussions. To those interested in integrating the various fields of social service and in postulating mental hygiene as one of the underlying principles in case work, the tone of the conference indicated that that goal is being attained with remarkable steadiness and strength of purpose. Two papers had a direct bearing on this matter of integration. One was Dr. Frankwood Williams' on "Mental Hygiene as an Integral Part of the Training for Social Work", the dominant note being the need for all social workers to be aware of and acquainted with personality and behavior as ever-growing dynamic issues. The other paper somewhat allied in purpose to his was Miss Christine Robb's on "The Problem of Meeting the Needs of the Social Worker Who Refers Cases to the Psychiatric Clinic". Miss Robb proceeded to describe the administrative problems arising from such referrals, methods of carrying on treatment in cooperation, and the necessity for giving treatment advice which is definite, intelligible, and practical for the worker of the referring agency.

As organizations become more and more closely related to schools of social work as part of the training center, the problem of meeting the needs of the student and case worker grows proportionately significant. Miss Grace Marcus's paper on "How May Case Work Training be Adapted to Deal with the Worker's Personal Problems" was an outstanding contribution to the Conference. It indicated the universal relationship of the case worker's treatment procedure to her own life experience. The elaborated theme dealt with ways in which the worker's early setting contributes to her attitudes, characteristics, biases and ideals, blindspots and identifications on the job and concluded with the handling of these mechanisms by the instructor or supervisor. Interest in the question is so keen that a luncheon was held at which training problems could be formulated and discussed. Miss Sarah Ivins led the way with an excellent paper outlining the initial situation for worker and supervisor, indicating the objectives, and giving in detail the plan of work for two students with quite different backgrounds. The greatest emphasis was laid on the need to understand the student's background, her intellectual equipment and her emotional problems and to help stimulate the student's understanding of herself before plans for developing her work capacity can be effective.

The third big topic dealt with the behavior problems of children, with special emphasis on treatment pro-

cedure. Dr. Esther Loring Richards began the Division program with a paper on "Formulating the Problem in Social Case Work with Children". She urged the need for a complete picture of the child's setting, with the factual material interpreted and supplemented by adequate description of the emotional experiences. The main thesis of Dr. Richards' paper was that all branches of social service have a common ground in the gathering of similar facts, but that the problem of the family or of the individual must then be formulated in more specialized terms. There are certain principles of social case work always kept in mind but they must be subordinate to the needs of the individual case. These needs are best classified under the well-known terms of hospital social service, family case work, child placing, psychiatric social work, etc., indicating where the treatment emphasis will lie.

At the same section meeting, Miss Jeanette Regensburg talked on "The Place of the Home in Treatment". Her purpose was to indicate first that the parents' handling of the child is instrumental in creating his problem; second, that plans to change the parental attitudes are dependent for success upon the possibility of meeting the parents' emotional needs; and third, that any treatment which is planned for the child affects every other person in his environment and must therefore be made as constructive as possible for all members of the family group.

Dr. Jessie Taft's paper on "What is the Chief Job of a Mental Hygienist in a Child-caring Agency?" served the double purpose of explaining treatment technique while it drew closer together the relation of the mental hygienist to an organization other than the psychiatric clinic. Dr. Taft postulates that every worker should be equipped with as sound a mental hygiene outlook as the mental hygienist per se. However, the mental hygienist in a child-caring agency has a unique role as a person who is interested primarily in the child, rather than in the family group, and whose entire energy can be devoted to making the child secure and to understanding his personal difficulties.

The Round Tables discussed many treatment possibilities but only the briefest mention can be made of those papers here because of their number and the limited space allowed for reports. The discussion led by Professor Harrison Elliot's paper on "The Place of Mental Hygiene in a Program of Religious Education" and the other opened by Reverend Pryor Grant on "Mental Hygiene in the Moral and Spiritual Development of the Child" attracted the greatest number of Conference members and provoked most significant responses. The application of mental hygiene principles to the day school was discussed admirably in several papers. Miss Frances Dummer described "What can be done with the Teacher's Point of View", talking with a perspective gained from a year in the

Winnetka School system. Miss Eleanor Johnson took up the question of the "Relation of School Maladjustment to Behavior", showing the way in which misconduct retards school progress regardless of the individual's intelligence. Miss Elizabeth Dexter in a most capable paper on "Organization of Parent-School Cooperation" paved the way for a discussion of parental education in school problems. The pre-school child was considered by Mrs. Katherine Dummer Fisher in a fine paper on "Motor Stunts and Mental Stability" and by Miss Ethel Kavin in an informal talk on "Personality Problems of the Pre-School Child".

Four other papers dealt with still different settings for treatment. Miss Charlotte Towle in "The Evaluation of Homes in Preparation for Child Placements" illustrated the way in which foster homes can be evaluated and selected on the basis of the emotional experiences they offer to the child. Miss Jeanette Davis in a paper on "The Boarding School" analyzed why the boarding school is sometimes preferable to any other long time placement, in terms of what the school provides and of what the child needs. Mr. Wilbur I. Newstetter pictured an experimental long-term camp as a tremendously interesting mental hygiene therapeutic measure in a paper entitled "An Experiment by Means of a Long-term Camp." Dr. Emily Burr, whose experimental workshop has had splendid success in the rehabilitation of emotionally disturbed adolescents and adults, described methods of treatment in her paper "Reconditioning the Human Machine for Industry".

Research and experiment in the rural field were the topics of the two papers at the last section meeting. Miss June Lyday in "The Place of the Mobile Clinic in a Rural Community" covered most adequately the administrative problems of such an organization and in addition described some of the outstanding psychological and physiological research of the Iowa Mobile Clinic in the field of reading disabilities. Dr. George F. Stevenson in "Organizing the Community for Mental Hygiene" devoted the major portion of his paper to the problems of cooperation and utilization of community resources. These were excellent and valuable contributions to the program since the question of extending psychiatric aid to outlying districts becomes daily more acute.

The large attendance at Division VII meetings and the significant discussion which followed each session indicated a growing belief that mental hygiene concepts are tools to be used in any human contact and that they are therefore practical therapeutic instruments to be employed, of course in conjunction with other tools, in any branch of social service.

MARION E. KENWORTHY, M. D.

Chairman, 1927.

DIVISION VIII—ORGANIZATION OF SOCIAL FORCES

Once more, Division VIII, "Organization of Social Forces", arranged things. We are not sure, however, that the shelves will remain for long as put. At any rate, we shoved forth a big assortment of hooks with dots under them, and everybody knows that the reach for the question mark is the beginning of wisdom.

I. Our five round tables were worth while.

1. The delightful Dean, Charles E. Jackson, put an idealistic stamp upon "The Qualifications of a Community Chest Executive", and the group let it stay there.

2. Otto W. Davis, the practical, led an active group in discussing "The Social Values of the Confidential Exchange". The conclusion was Yankee; How can a community work efficiently without the Exchange? A question, you see, that imbeds its own answer.

3. The intense David L. Holbrook succeeded in getting such emphasis placed upon the service side of national social work organizations in relation to the needs and wants of local communities, and there was clarification in the process.

4. Elwood Street scintillated in handling "The Saturation Point in Community Giving". Does a community give all it needs to give, or all it wants to give? It does.

5. Robert W. Kelso, the super-chairman, on "Tests of Progress in Community Organization", had his hands full, and he has very spacious hands, two. Concrete tests in the children's field were offered by C. C. Carstens. All speakers seemed to itch for a sure-enough measuring stick for social values, and talked much of the scientific approach, yet insisted that the abiding values are spiritual.

II. Without the least disparagement of other splendid speakers, it is not unfair to place laurel on the brows of Rowland Haynes and Stuart A. Queen. They appeared in the "research" session. The general subject was "The Statistical Side of Social Work". Mr. Haynes' topic was "The Necessity of Factual Bases in Planning Social Work". Laying a pile of 8½ x 11 papers on the table, as if it were his written address (maybe it was, but we doubt it), he struck out. Becoming en rapport at once with his fine, big audience, he presented a scholarly address. Assuming the necessity of factual bases by good-naturedly chaffing (and chafing?) the makers of the program, he showed that community social planning requires statistical facts and casual facts, the latter being concerned with population and environmental characteristics. His discussion constituted no mean class-room performance in geology and geography, politics, economics, and sociology, especially in sociology which he treated with the familiar endearments of an exhibition boxer.

Dr. Queen, speaking to "Nonstatistical Studies of Social Work," emphasized the need to study types of

situations and processes as distinguished from and supplemental to numerical summation and mere narration. He enriched his paper with apt and tantalizingly interesting illustrations from statistical studies and publicity behavior of social workers.

III. The Division, in one session, made an effort to relate the welfare activities of nooday clubs and fraternal groups to the problem of organizing local social forces. C. W. Areson interested and instructed us with his fine paper on a difficult subject. He undertook as a social worker to point out the significance of the welfare program of the groups mentioned. Development of the field work of Mooseheart and the American Legion demonstrates actual results accruing from contact of fraternal groups with social work. The behavior of Kiwanis in Colorado and Wyoming, by seeking skilled social guidance cheers the heart of a social worker. In general, however, the attitude of these groups is not above that of the general level of the indifferent public toward social work ideals and methods. The picture painted was not rosy red.

Dr. E. B. Mountain pointed to the bulk of welfare work done by fraternal orders for their members, and bore down heavily on the value of their health activities.

As a whole, this meeting did not pan out well. The question under discussion behaved like an over-inflated tire tube being forced into a casing. It kept bulging out here and there; the darn thing wouldn't stay put. There was evident agreement that the subject ought to have further handling within prescribed discussion limits.

IV. We had a meeting concerned with rural and small city organization. H. A. Waldkoenig, discussing "Organization of Social Work in Cities of 50,000 and Less," offered an analysis of the trends in small city social organization, going into the fields of child welfare, health, family, transients, protective work, social service exchanges and community chests. According to Mr. Waldkoenig, it is more difficult to do social work in the small city than in the large; and chests, lacking adequate social service leadership, can do little social planning. No city should essay a chest unless the community is ready to pay a salary adequate to attract the right person as director. The "right person" must be one who has had adequate training in social work or is willing and able to learn. The address showed conscientious preparation and lacked no appreciation by the group.

W. H. Stacy, in talking about the distinctly rural community emphasized, to the refreshment of his audience, the factors distinguishing the country from the city as to social organization. A friendly tilt spiced the sauce. It had to do with the part played, or properly to be played, by the federal government in development of the social forces of the rural districts.

V. In our joint meeting with Division I, Children, W. F. Kennedy un-

dertook to prove that the public school is the only organization that can effectively train for social service. The paper was essentially an apologia for the platoon system of organization. Charles M. Perry rather relentlessly bore down on some dangers inhering in the integrating tendencies of the public schools. He feared the loss of privacy, and originality in the individual pupil. "They may be good Romans ready to die in the cinders of Pompeii but they would cut a sorry figure in the coterie of Socrates. They will make good tools in the hands of designing leaders of factions."

The Division Committee presented, for the most part, broad considerations of community organization. There was some disappointment registered because we did not present more technique in local social service organization. As a whole, however, the papers and discussions were stimulative of thought on major problems.

The Division wishes to register its appreciation of the continuous courtesy and assistance rendered by Mr. Reed and the local committee. Our Division had a profitable and enjoyable experience.

CHARLES C. STILLMAN,
Chairman, 1927.

DIVISION IX—PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND ADMINISTRATION

The program of the Section of Public Officials and Administration was so arranged as to permit the members to attend other sessions of the Conference with the maximum of convenience.

Not more than three papers were arranged for any one morning and formal discussion scheduled but one speaker, the remaining time being free to all.

The first session, on May 13th, was attended by more than two hundred which was unusual for this Section and of that number about sixty-five were public officials, seventy-six were representatives of private agencies and the remainder were persons interested in the general problem presented. The consensus of opinion was that there was great need of unified statistics in matters relating to all forms of public social work, and that Division IX should make a definite effort to develop record forms calculated to lay the foundations for social statistics which shall be comparable to those established in the field of vital statistics. No definite conclusion was reached as to the proportionate distribution of poor law relief as between public and private agencies.

The importance and scope of the service of the county institutions in rural social work was ably presented and discussed, the conclusion being reached that the county is an effective unit for the administration of rural social work and that cooperation between public and private agencies is essential to success.

The attendance at the joint session with the Children's Division was disappointingly small in view of the im-

portance of the subjects presented and was undoubtedly due to the conflict in time with the Mental Hygiene Division.

The importance of cooperative effort on the part of public and private agencies; the purpose of state wide statistics; and a uniform system of population accounting for children's institutions presented by three speakers gave added stimulus to the idea that Division IX must attempt to formulate uniform systems of financial and population accounting if we are ever to know what we are doing and what it costs in this important field of public welfare.

The last meeting of Division IX was seriously interfered with by a heavy rain storm and by the departure from the Conference of many members of the Division. Because of the very small attendance, Division IX joined the Health Division and by courtesy two very able papers relating to Disease and Dependency were given in condensed form in conjunction with the Social Hygiene program of the Health Division.

The joint session with the Family Division was well attended and the emphasis was again placed upon the importance of cooperative effort of public and private agencies in the field of social work.

On Monday the 16th, an informal luncheon of public officials was held at the Hotel Fort Des Moines with twenty-five in attendance. The luncheon was followed by a discussion, lasting two hours, of new developments in the fields of public social work in the states represented.

It is felt that the problems discussed in the Children's, the Family, and the Mental Hygiene Divisions are of such great importance to the public officials attending the National Conference that it is desirable that the hours of meeting of these sections should not conflict with those of Division IX if it is possible to avoid it.

ELLEN C. POTTER,
Chairman, 1927.

DIVISION X—THE IMMIGRANT

The subject of immigration is not a dead issue, nor is it a closed one. Delegates who attended the sessions of the Division on Immigration at the National Conference of Social Work which met in Des Moines, Iowa, testified to the soundness of this statement by flocking to the meetings in large numbers and by participating enthusiastically in the discussions.

The first of the five meetings conducted by Division X concerned itself with a discussion of the humanitarian effects of the immigration law. Appointed by Miss Mary McDowell, Chairman of this Division, to make a nation-wide study of the subject, Miss Razovsky of the National Council of Jewish Women presented at this meeting the results of the survey made by her Committee. The data procured from the study contained, in addition to figures showing the number of separated families, records of cases indicating peculiar

and tragic hardships resulting from separation. Commenting upon these cases, Miss Razovsky suggested that perhaps it would be possible to interest Congress in passing an amendment to the law to this effect: Inasmuch as about 173,000 wives and children are, according to figures furnished by the State Department, unable to join alien husbands and fathers living in this country, and as the annual quota for all countries amounts to about 165,000, relief could be granted these suffering persons by closing the doors to all other immigration within the quota for a period of one or two years, permitting instead the admission of all wives and children of aliens who arrived in the United States before 1924. This suggestion was taken under consideration by a group of interested men and women who attended the session, and at a special meeting later called for the purpose, a Temporary Council on Immigration Policy was organized to act upon this recommendation and to plan for its presentation to interested people in every community in the country.

The subject was further developed by Mrs. Kenneth Rich of the Immigrants Protective League of Chicago, followed by a discussion led by Miss Aghavnie Yeghenian, Secretary of the Department of Immigration of the National Board of the Y. W. C. A. From these talks, too, it was obvious that a change in the law is absolutely essential.

Discussion of "Our Newest Immigrants—the Mexicans" was the topic for the next session of the Division. Professor D. D. Lescohier of the University of Wisconsin gave a historical review of Mexican immigration into the United States, discussing also the degree of assimilability of the Mexican, as compared with other immigrants, and urging a policy of watchful waiting with regard to the unlimited admission in the future of races whose backgrounds, culture and customs are so different from those of the "older immigration". This paper created lively discussion and was followed by a "close up" view of Mexicans as neighbors, sympathetically presented by Miss Nellie Foster of the Neighborhood House, San Diego, California. Miss Foster told of the splendid changes brought about in neighborhoods that had been in the grip of terrorizing gangs through the introduction of athletics and other community centre activities, aided by frequent intercourse between American workers in the settlement and the young people in the neighborhood.

An interesting paper on "Our Newest Migrant—The Negro" was next read by Mr. Charles S. Johnson, Editor of the magazine "Opportunity". Mr. Johnson stated that in the past ten years 1,200,000 negroes had left the South to take positions in the North left vacant by the decrease in immigration; that the Mexicans are taking the jobs which the negroes first took upon their arrival in the North, and that the expansion into industry over a period of seven or eight years has caused many negroes

to become semi-skilled laborers.

Keen interest was displayed by the delegates in the talk given by Mr. Smétanka, Czechoslovakian consul in Chicago, who had been authorized by the Czechoslovakian Ambassador at Washington to represent his country at the Conference. In discussing some of the ill effects of the Cable Act upon alien married women, Mr. Smétanka drew upon the experiences occurring in his own Consulate. He related, for instance, that as many of the Czechoslovakian women are now women without a country because of the Cable Act, they must, if they wish to go abroad, procure special traveling permits. Various governments abroad demand certain affidavits in connection with these permits and the fees charged for these affidavits are unusually high. All in all, the work of a Consulate office in this country corresponds very closely to that carried on by an immigrant aid agency, concluded Mr. Smétanka.

Miss Jane Clark of the International Migration Service presented a paper on "Deportation—Its Social Consequences" which was so full of valuable information regarding the administration and interpretation of the law, that it has been published as an Interpreter Release by the Foreign Language Information Service. Following Miss Clark's paper, a report on "Family Problems Resulting from the Present Deportation System" was presented by Mrs. Gudrun G. Romm of the United Charities of Chicago.

A subject on which there has been scant information available in the past, namely: "Is There Undue Crime Among Immigrants?" was discussed by Professor E. H. Sutherland of the University of Minnesota who, in a very carefully prepared and scholarly thesis, brought out illuminating and startling data concerning foreign-born in penal institutions. Professor Sutherland clearly indicates from the data obtained by him that there is not undue crime among the foreign-born and that by comparing foreign-born with native born by age and sex groups, it is found that there is less crime among foreign-born than among those born in this country.

Under the Chairmanship of Miss Marion Schibbsby of the Foreign Language Information Service, a symposium of five-minute speeches by representatives of various agencies, describing the work they are doing in the field of immigration and assimilation, concluded the regular daily sessions.

At the last general luncheon of the National Conference, Miss Jane Addams spoke on the immigration law as one international aspect of social work.

CECILIA RAZOVSKY,
Vice-Chairman, 1927.

DIVISION XI—PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

For Division XI on Professional Standards and Education, it was comparatively easy to build a program around the general plan calling for one division meeting on rural affairs, one setting forth the results of recent research projects, one of general interest, and one which would be broken up into round tables.

For its rural meeting the Division chose the subject of "Education for Rural Social Work". Professor Jesse F. Steiner of the Universities of North Carolina and Chicago, in discussing the study of rural sociology as an indispensable or merely desirable element in professional education of a social worker, made it clear and vivid that rural social work could never be a transplanting of city social work to rural neighborhoods. It must grow out of an understanding of the specific problems of people who live in rural environments.

The second paper on "Field Practice and Education for Rural Social Work", given by Professor E. L. Morgan of the University of Missouri, posited that whatever else field work might do in the preparation of a student for social work, it would be a failure if it did not equip him with a good knowledge of the attitudes of rural people towards the affairs of life—attitudes which are widely different from those of city people. Professor Morgan sketched the factors in rural life which have tended to create these characteristic attitudes.

In the discussion following these papers there was much interest in the conclusion of Professor Morgan, himself a ruralist by birth, education, and experience, that success in rural social work did not necessarily depend upon the worker's having been born and bred in the country. It was his opinion that far more important than the physical fact of origin was the psychical fact of present attitude toward country life. There is little hope for the rural social worker if he is not imbued with a genuine affection and enthusiasm for things rural. It is entirely conceivable, and it has actually happened within Professor Morgan's observation, that a few people born and reared in cities have become first-class rural social workers.

At the research meeting two excellent summaries of recent studies were presented. Professor E. E. Eubank of

the University of Cincinnati reviewed "Some Findings of a Recent Survey of Schools of Social Work." The facts which Professor Eubank's paper brought out will find their first printing in the Proceedings of the Conference, and are highly significant and worthy of the study of everyone who is interested in the growth of professional education.

Miss Louise Odencrantz of the American Association of Social Workers gave a summary of a year's study in the analysis of case work positions in the field of family welfare, medical and psychiatric social work, and discussed the method which had been employed in making that analysis. Miss Odencrantz's study is scheduled for publication by the American Association of Social Workers within the next year.

These papers put before the Conference in a compact and easily assimilable form the results of two significant recent studies of social work in its professional phases.

The meeting devoted to the discussion of "Professional Social Work in a Methodical Country" proved to be one of the best attended of the meetings of this Division. The program consisted of two illuminating accounts of the development of professional social work in Germany.

Dr. Emy Wagner put before this American audience a clear and informing account of the social conditions and social problems in Germany which gave rise to the various professional organizations now found in that country. There are three women's organizations—a non-sectarian association, an organization of Protestant social workers, and an organization of Catholic social workers,—and a small organization of men in social work.

Dr. Ruth Weiland, the charming secretary of the non-sectarian organization in Germany, presented a very accurate and complete account of the present organization of education and of the administration of the state examinations for German social workers.

Miss Carlotta Welles, an American and a Bryn Mawr graduate, who has been active for a number of years in French social work affairs, informally reported on the development of professional organization and education for social work in France.

It seemed to be the general conclusion of the large attendance at this meeting that these reports from

other countries added materially to the educational services of the Conference.

"The Use by Social Workers of Legal Resources", a joint session with the National Association of Legal Aid Organizations, constituted the program of Division XI's fourth section meeting. Mr. J. Prentice Murphy and John Bradway, Esq., both of Philadelphia, presented papers which raised very interesting questions regarding the relations of social workers to the development of legal institutions, and these led to the concrete recommendation that at next year's Conference special attention should be paid to the technical legal problems of residence within national and local boundaries in the United States.

The five round tables conducted on Monday of the Conference Week covered (1) "Professional Education for New York Social Workers" under the leadership of Dr. E. Franklin Frazier, (2) "Recruiting of the Profession of Social Work by Social Agencies" led by Miss Lillian Quinn of the Joint Vocational Bureau, (3) "Growth of Democratic Organization in Social Work" conducted by Miss Lucy Carner of the National Y. W. C. A., (4) "Membership Qualifications for the Professional Organization of Social Workers" under the direction of Mr. M. J. Karpf, Director of the School for Jewish Social Work, and (5) "Education for Child Welfare Work" of which Mr. C. C. Carstens was the leader.

These provided ample opportunities for Conference members and visitors to discuss directly and informally the many issues which cluster around these phases of social work and education for it.

There seemed to be general agreement that the material presented in Division XI this year was of such quality and nature as to justify the action of the Executive Committee in giving the Division permanent status. It was also remarked that its papers will be of distinct value in the archives of social work.

NEVA R. DEARDORFF,
Chairman, 1927.

DIVISION XII—EDUCATION PUBLICITY

The supporters of social work, better known as the public, were diagnosed in Division XII by methods similar to those applied in other divisions to the child, the family, the de-

linquent, and the immigrant. Such questions were considered as: how can we find out what the public knows or thinks it knows about social work? What conditions and experiences, predispose a given section of the public to view social work favorably or unfavorably? What principles of case work can be carried over into the education of the public?

Dr. Edwin J. Starbuck, Research Station in Character Education, University of Iowa described methods of research especially applicable to the study of opinion. He emphasized and elaborated these five points:

1. Every topic worthy of research should involve a vital situation.

2. There must be an exhaustive study of the data within the chosen field or at least an adequate sampling of data.

3. The necessity of making constantly a critical analysis of the problem being investigated and of the elements involved in the several parts of the main problem.

4. The necessity of testing the trustworthiness of all data and the reliability of all conclusions.

5. Objective standards or forms for the measurement of data.

An experiment in testing attitudes toward family social work was reported on by Linton B. Swift. A questionnaire had been prepared chiefly for discussion at this meeting which contained a series of statements to be checked yes or no. The object was to see whether such a test would indicate something of the extent to which prejudices against family work known to exist in the past still persist in certain communities and also to see whether new ideas are understood and approved. The returns at the time of the meeting had come in from only 128 questionnaires filled out by four groups including a college class, a rotary club, business and professional women's club and a mail return from a small number of chest contributors. These gave too small a sample for valid conclusions. However, a decided majority showed preference for case work rather than relief without service and for employment of trained workers as against persons equipped only "with common sense and a warm heart". The only significant adverse opinion was shown by the 44 yes replies as against 57 nos, to the statement "family social workers are too much concerned with records and red tape."

It was agreed in discussion that the questionnaire whether or not it represented a sound method, needed considerable revision.

At a session devoted to rural publicity, one section of the public was diagnosed. Nelson A. Crawford, Director of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture speaking on "the Farmer Looks at Social Work" said:

"Conditions of farm life have made the farmer an individualist, slow to put faith in any organization. He is something of a fatalist too, since so many chances that affect his success or failure are beyond human control. Yet there is much informal, in-

dividual help given to the unfortunates in rural communities as an act of neighborliness. It is the charitable organization developed in the city that the farmer distrusts as not being adapted to rural life."

Mr. Crawford advised against emphasis on technique in publicity addressed to farmers saying that the farmer is not especially interested in details of procedure. He also urged that all sides of the question be presented not only because it is common honesty, but because the farmer experienced in agriculture knows that human plans do not work out with unerring accuracy. He is suspicious of any plan that offers no difficulty.

Further recognition that the characteristic experiences of a given group have decided bearing on the attitude of its members toward social work was brought out by the speakers at a joint meeting with the Family Division on "Interpreting Case Work by Case Work Methods." Donors and volunteers need to be considered as individuals quite as much as clients do, Clare M. Tousley said. She told of one volunteer who as a member of the Junior League brought in both financial help and more volunteers, as a graduate of a private school interested its students in starting the Children's Clinic and as the classmate of a magazine editor, helped to open the door of the publication to information about family work. Similarly, board members, staff members and clients themselves open up many opportunities for interpreting family work to large numbers of people.

Paul L. Benjamin, continuing the same theme drew an excellent illustration from the Bible: "Jesus did not talk about integration, fixation, the content of psychiatric case work, or individualizing the group approach. To the shepherd he spoke of sheep, to the tiller of the soil, of the mustard seed, to the fisherman of the net and the haul of fish."

While the public considered as a case for analysis came in for an unusual amount of attention from a group that has heretofore devoted itself chiefly to the technique for presenting information, the best attended and no doubt the best remembered meeting was the joint session with the Committee on Publicity Methods for the discussion of social work writing. All the honors go to Leon Whipple who applied "The Magic Gift of Style" to a paper delivered under that title. Mr. Whipple encouraged his audience at the start by saying that his sub-title "Must Social Work Writing be Dull" was both a challenge and an insult. "There is no predestination of dullness upon us," he said. Neither are we obliged at the other extreme to wield what Mr. Benjamin called the "saccharine pen" of some publicity writers. Mr. Whipple said:

"Indeed, most of our writing falls into two classes; the technical, erudite, monograph style, utterly careless of audience, color, or warmth, and the pure journalistic of much of the go-getter publicity. That is not necessary: you can be precise and ac-

curate, and yet be comprehensible. Indeed, if you are not comprehensible probably you are wrong. Moreover you can be popular and readable without being cheap or jazzy. At all events, I urge you to forget most of the purely technical writing in social work literature of the moment as a guide to style."

For the benefit of Conference delegates who might be looking for practical help on those ever present problems of every agency, the annual meeting, the annual report and news writing, three round tables were held under the title "The A B C's of Publicity." News was the theme of all of these meetings for the question of how to prepare a good report or conduct a successful annual meeting was agreed to depend on having something new to tell each year or on telling the same story in a new way.

The Division rejoiced in being placed on a permanent basis and being allowed to elect its members for one, two and three year periods.

MARY SWAIN ROUTZOHN,
Chairman, 1927.

THE FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from page 4)

since the reactions caused by the war spirit of repression and its injection into the political life of the country. Perhaps it may be assumed that social workers are beginning to think less of being the salvage corps of society and more of being the architects or assistant architects of the social structure.

A review of the 1927 Conference cannot fail to take account of the greatly enlarged publicity. It is doubtful if any Conference in recent times secured as much space in the newspapers before, during and after the session, as this one. Over one thousand two hundred newspaper clippings have already come to my desk, representing more than seven hundred different newspapers in which one or more items about the Conference appeared and these by no means represent the total publicity, since they are merely those items that were found by one clipping service and do not include the hundreds of specialized journals, monthly and weekly magazines, and other media of publicity.

JOHN A. LAPP,
President, 1927.

DIVISION X—THE IMMIGRANT

(Continued from page 3)

Read Lewis, New York City.
 Dr. Harry L. Lurie, Chicago.
 Mary McDowell, Chicago.
 Leifur Magnusson, Washington, D. C.
 Marion Shibsby, New York City.
 Joroslav F. Smetanka, Chicago.
 Aghavnie Yeghenian, New York City.

DIVISION XI—PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

Chairman: Dr. F. Stuart Chapin, Minneapolis.
 Vice-Chairman: Irene Liggett, Philadelphia.

Committee**Term Expires 1928**

Secretary: Henrietta S. Additon, Bryn Mawr, Pa.
 Henrietta S. Addition, Bryn Mawr, Pa.
 Sophonisba Breckinridge, Chicago.
 Dr. Neva R. Deardorff, New York City.
 Dr. Emerson A. North, Cincinnati.
 Walter W. Pettit, New York City.

Term Expires 1929

Joanna C. Colcord, Minneapolis.
 Irene Farnham Conrad, New Orleans.
 Rev. Frederick Siedenbureg, Chicago.
 Philip Klein, New York City.
 Howard W. Odum, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Term Expires 1930

C. C. Carstens, New York City.
 Dorothea de Schweinitz, New York City.
 Dr. Philip A. Parsons, Eugene, Ore.
 Dr. Arthur J. Todd, Chicago.
 Gertrude Vaile, Ames, Ia.

DIVISION XII—EDUCATIONAL PUBLICITY

Chairman: Homer W. Borst, Indianapolis.
 Vice-Chairman: Irene Farnham Conrad, New Orleans.
 Secretary: Clare M. Tousley, New York City.

Committee**Term Expires 1928**

Gertrude Springer, New York City.
 Julia Tolman Lee, New York City.
 Clare M. Tousley, New York City.
 Leon Whipple, New York City.

Term Expires 1929

George Bedinger, Philadelphia.
 Margaret F. Byington, Hartford, Conn.
 Irene Farnham Conrad, New Orleans.
 Bruno Lasker, New York City.
 Mary Ross, New York City.

Term Expires 1930

Paul Bliss, St. Louis.
 Homer W. Borst, Indianapolis.
 Louise Clevenger, Toledo, O.
 Bernard C. Roloff, Chicago.
 Mary Swain Routzahn, New York City.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

In order to follow out the action of the National Conference of Social Work at the Des Moines meeting and to provide machinery for fulfilling the responsibility of the National Con-

ference toward the International Conference of Social Work, a special meeting of the Executive Committee was held in New York on June 24th. After consideration of the reports of Miss Margaret Curtis, Chairman of the former committee on the International Conference, and Miss Mary Van Kleeck, a member of the Executive Board of the International Conference, the National Conference Executive Committee authorized the President to appoint a committee of not less than seven to act for the Conference during the year. By vote of the Executive Committee, Mr. Kingsley as President of the National Conference of Social Work was made Chairman of this new committee.

The International Conference of Social Work will be held in Paris, July 1st to 13th, 1928. More detailed information concerning program, American representation, and the like will be printed in the November Bulletin.

FAMILY LIFE IN AMERICA TODAY

Family Life in America Today is the subject uppermost in the minds of family social workers and will be under discussion for three days at a conference at Buffalo, October 2nd to 5th.

The Conference will mark the 50th Anniversary of family social work in America. The Charity Organization Society of Buffalo, the first of its kind in America, was organized in 1877.

A Committee of the American Association for Organizing Family Social Work is in charge of the Conference. Frank J. Bruno of Washington University, St. Louis, is the Chairman and Miss Mary E. Richmond of the Russell Sage Foundation is Honorary Chairman.

Formal programs are planned for the mornings and evenings while in the afternoon many phases of family life will be under discussion in round table meetings.

Among those who have agreed to take part in the discussion of Family Life are:

Dr. Henry Seidel Canby, Editor of The Saturday Review of Literature;
 Dorothy Canfield Fisher, author;
 Professor Herbert F. Jennings, Johns Hopkins University;
 Mr. Karl de Schweinitz, Director, The Family Society of Philadelphia;
 Professor W. F. Ogburn, Columbia University;
 Professor Ernest R. Groves, Boston University;
 Porter R. Lee, Director, New York School of Social work;

A. J. Muste, Director, Brookwood Labor College;

David C. Adie, Director, Charity Organization Society, Buffalo;

Miss Gordon Hamilton, New York School of Social Work;

Frederick May Elliot, St. Paul, Minnesota;

Professor Paul H. Douglas, University of Chicago; and

Mrs. John M. Glenn, President of the American Association for Organizing Family Social Work.

Anyone interested can get further particulars from Mr. Walter M. West, Secretary, 130 East 22nd Street, New York City.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1)

those days concerned themselves with the dead, so that accurate figures are not available. Now the baby death rate stands around 77 for the registration area, which means a saving of something like 170,000 to 200,000 infant lives in a year with a corresponding saving in the other ages of early childhood.

Now, an epidemic of typhoid fever would be a municipal disgrace. Diphtheria is no longer a terror and scarlet fever is well under control. The great tuberculosis crusade, medical examination of school children, and other forms of health activity, which are now standard and an accepted part of a community program, means that the span of life has been lengthened until every baby born in the United States has a life expectancy of 58 years.

Having accomplished these things in the realm of physical health, it seems to me like achievements in the field of mental hygiene are immediately before us. The cost of caring for people in the final states of mental defect and neglect give us the most staggering figures with which our states and municipalities are obliged to deal today.

We now have the challenge from outstanding practitioners in the field of mental health. They tell us that similar results can be achieved here that have already been accomplished in the realm of physical well-being.

Social work seems to be ready for the program, "Much for Care, More for Cure, Most for Prevention".

SHERMAN C. KINGSLEY,
 President.

FINANCIAL REPORT

JUNE 1, 1926 TO JUNE 1, 1927

RECEIPTS

Cash Balance—June 1, 1926		\$ 2,551.17
Memberships	\$28,678.95	
Sundry Items	1,565.38	30,244.33
Total Receipts		\$32,795.50

DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries	\$10,996.97	
Publications, Etc.	8,300.15	
Annual Meeting	4,598.85	
Committee Expense	1,481.49	
Sundry Items	2,184.01	
Rental and Insurance	878.75	
Total Disbursements	\$28,440.22	\$28,440.22
BALANCE JUNE 1, 1927		\$ 4,355.28

Securities—

Certificate of Deposit	\$6,864.84	
Certificate of Deposit	500.00	\$ 7,364.84
Total Balance June 1, 1927		\$11,720.12

The accounts of the Conference were audited by Ernst & Ernst through April 20, 1927

SUGGESTIONS FOR OFFICERS 1927-1928

Clip and Mail to Fred R. Johnson, 1180 Lawrence Ave., Detroit

For list of present officers and members of Executive Committee see elsewhere in this Bulletin

For President:

First Choice Address

Second Choice Address

For First Vice-President:

Name Address

For Second Vice-President:

Name Address

For Third Vice-President:

Name Address

For members of the Executive Committee, stating them in the order of your preference (five to be chosen for a term of three years):

1. Name Address

2. Name Address

3. Name Address

4. Name Address

5. Name Address

SUGGESTIONS MADE BY

(Signed) Address

The Next Meeting

Memphis, Tennessee

May 2 - 9, 1928

for further information

HOWARD R. KNIGHT

277 E. Long St.

Columbus, Ohio

